17 September 2018

Original: English*

Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
17–21 September 2018

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

1. The Twenty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and hosted by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, was held in Dar es Salaam from 17 to 21 September 2018. Welcome remarks were made by the Chair of the meeting. Opening statements were made by the Prime Minister of Tanzania and the Minister of State of Tanzania. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an opening statement. The Regional Representative of UNODC for Eastern Africa made an opening statement on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC.

B. Attendance

2. The following States were represented at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa: [...].

3. The following States were represented by observers: [...].

4. The [...] were represented by observers.

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C. Election of officers

5. At its 1st meeting, on 17 September 2018, the Meeting elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:	Rogers William Siyanga (United Republic of Tanzania)
Vice-Chairs:	Michael Addo (Ghana) Symphorien Kazadi Kabwe (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
Rapporteur:	Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

D. Adoption of the agenda

6. At the same meeting, the Twenty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
5. Consideration of topics by working groups:
   (a) Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime;
   (b) Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment;
   (c) Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement;
   (d) Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings.
6. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
7. Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
8. Organization of the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa.
9. Other business.
10. Adoption of the report.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Twenty-eighth Meeting of HONLEA, Africa, are listed in the annex.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Addendum

Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. At its first and second meetings on 17 September 2018, the Meeting considered agenda item 6 "Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, and to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem held in 2016, taking into consideration the ministerial segment to be held during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

2. For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem (E/2009/28, chap. I, sect. C) and the General Assembly resolution S-30/1 entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem".

3. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made an audiovisual presentation under this agenda item. During the discussion of the item, statements were made by the representatives of Egypt, Sudan, South Africa, Angola, Morocco, Mauritius, Ghana, Gambia, Algeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Benin, Namibia, Liberia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Sao Tomé and Principe.

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4. In her presentation, the Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs provided the meeting with updated information on the status of preparations of the Commission for the ministerial segment of the 62nd session in March 2019.

5. The Secretary explained that in 2009, the Commission adopted the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, highlighting that five targets were set in the Political Declaration, with the year 2019 set as target date. It was reiterated that the targets included the elimination or significant reduction of the illicit cultivation of certain crops, of the illicit demand for drugs and related risks, of the illicit production and trafficking of psychotropic substances, of the diversion and illicit trafficking of precursors and of money-laundering related to illicit drugs. The Commission in 2014 conducted a midterm review of the progress made towards those targets, the results of which are contained in the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted.

6. Furthermore, it was recalled that the General Assembly in 2016 adopted the outcome document of the special session on the world drug problem, which had been negotiated by the Commission and for which it was conducting since 2016 an intense follow-up process. An overview was provided of the "four-parts approach" the Commission had taken, consisting of the thematic discussions within the Commission, the regional level contributions by the subsidiary bodies, the national implementation workshops provided by the Secretariat and the post-UNGASS website which was used as a repository of the information exchanged.

7. Information was also shared on the workplan of the Commission for the fall of 2018, where a series of intersessional meetings will be held with thematic and organizational segments, as well as a normative segment, in preparation for the ministerial-level meeting in 2019. At the reconvened 61st session in December 2018, the modalities for the ministerial segment were expected to be decided. The Chair of the Commission was also to present at that time an outline for the way beyond 2019, pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 61/10. Also in this resolution it was decided that the ministerial segment will feature a general debate and two multi-stakeholder round tables.

8. Several speakers reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, the Joint Ministerial Statement and the outcome document of the General Assembly special session on drugs. It was noted that the three documents were complementary and mutually reinforcing and support was expressed for the preparatory process for the sixty-second session of the Commission to be held in 2019. Reference was also made to the impact that those three documents had on States' efforts to address the world drug problem at all levels.

9. Some speakers highlighted that 2019 was the target date of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action and that as such the mandate for the ministerial segment ought to be to take stock of and review those targets.

10. Several speakers also reaffirmed their Governments' continued commitment to the goals and objectives of the three international drug control conventions as the basis for ensuring the health, welfare and well-being of all people.

11. Support was expressed for the Commission as the policymaking body of the United Nations with prime responsibility for drug control matters and for the work of UNODC as the leading entity within the United Nations system for addressing and countering the world drug problem.

12. It was noted that a lot of progress had been made since 2009 in many countries and in Africa as a whole, in both drug supply and demand reduction, as well as in international cooperation. Some speakers highlighted that the area of health played a greater role in the drug strategies and implementation plans of African countries than in 2009, with prevention and treatment measures increasingly based on scientific evidence. Some speakers also reported on their Governments introducing harm reduction measures.

13. Some speakers reported on measures being taken by their Governments to improve the access to and availability of controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes. Some noted that this was an issue of importance to Africa, which had been highlighted in the UNGASS outcome document and which has to be taken into consideration in the meeting in 2019.

14. A number of delegations reported on institutions that had been strengthened since 2009, such as financial intelligence units, as well as mechanisms coordinating the work of the various Government stakeholders involved in addressing drugs. Some delegations noted their Governments were in the process of revising drug related laws, using the UNGASS outcome document as a reference point.

15. It was also noted that drug trafficking and related offences continued to pose a major threat to security, health and the socioeconomic conditions in many countries. The importance of countering the cultivation, production, manufacturing and trafficking of drugs was noted and, in this regard, the principle of common and shared responsibility in the fight against drugs was highlighted.

16. Several speakers provided information on supply reduction measures taken at the national level, including by making reference to particular cases and seizures. The need to review and, if necessary, adapt national legislation to current challenges, as well as to strengthen border management measures, was also noted. The importance of reinforcing cooperation efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels was emphasized by several speakers, as was the need for continued exchanges of operational information and intelligence and for elaborating specific cooperation initiatives for the African region. The importance of capacity-building and training was also highlighted in this regard.

17. Concern was expressed regarding the alarming dimensions of cocaine trafficking from Latin America through the African region. The increase in heroin trafficking was also highlighted by some delegations. Many countries reported on the challenges experienced by transit countries.

18. Several speakers emphasized that the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis continued to be a major concern for countries in the African region and mentioned efforts taken at the national level to reduce cannabis cultivation. The need for efforts on income-generating activities for farmers as well as on integrated social development and alternative development was highlighted. Fighting poverty and reducing exclusion and stigma were considered key in addressing the world drug problem.

19. Many speakers also highlighted the strong increase in the use and trafficking of tramadol, which was part of the new substances and trends, that had not existed in 2009. It was noted that the detection of the substance posed a challenge as it was also sold in pharmacies, however at lower levels of potency.

20. Appreciation was expressed for the tools initiated by the International Narcotics Control Board assisting States to address the threats posed by precursor chemicals and new psychoactive substances, respectively. Reference was made by some speakers to joint activities undertaken in the framework of the Colombo Plan.

21. A number of speakers referred to the increasing abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances among children and youth and reaffirmed their commitment to addressing this issue. Several delegations reported on awareness-raising measures taken in this regard, such as training related to drug use prevention in schools. One delegation reported on improvements made in the juvenile justice system with possible referral to treatment programmes or training opportunities.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Addendum

Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. At its third meeting, held on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 7 of the agenda entitled "Implementation of Commission on Narcotic Drugs decision 60/1, on strengthening the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs".

2. The Secretary of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs made a statement on the practical implementation of Commission decision 60/1. The Secretary informed the Meeting that, in that decision, the Commission had decided, in response to the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211 of 2016, and mindful of the requests contained in Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10 of 2013 and the operational recommendation contained in paragraph 6 (c) of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem" to examine how its subsidiary bodies could better contribute to the implementation of the outcome document; to inform its subsidiary bodies of the invitation contained in paragraph 97 of General Assembly resolution 71/211; and to invite the subsidiary bodies to consider that invitation at their upcoming meetings and report back to the Commission in due course.

3. Decision 60/1 had been brought to the attention of the previous meeting of HONLEA Africa and the Secretary of the Commission noted that the views expressed at last year's meetings of all subsidiary bodies had been reported back to the Commission.

4. She also recalled that, in Commission resolution 56/10, Member States had been invited to consider the expertise and composition of their delegations to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission and noted that one of the initiatives that

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had already been taken to implement the outcome of the special session was the inclusion of working groups on cross-cutting topics contained in the outcome document in the agendas of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission held since 2016.

5. Statements were made by Namibia, Côte d'Ivoire, Zambia, Sudan, Morocco and the United Republic of Tanzania.

6. Several speakers highlighted that addressing and countering the world drug problem could not be dealt with by one entity alone but required a comprehensive, multisectorial approach, as many issues related to drugs were complex and cross-cutting in nature.

7. Speakers highlighted efforts made to join resources to make the fight against drugs more effective, including by involving all relevant ministries as well as civil society actors.

8. Some speakers noted that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission had an important role to play in both supply and demand reduction and as such the bodies should involve all relevant stakeholders in their meetings.

9. Some delegations were of the view that the subsidiary bodies could be strengthened in terms of their coverage of demand reduction issues in order to address the world drug problem in a comprehensive manner.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Addendum

Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking

1. At its third meeting, held on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/28/2 and E/CN.7/2018/5) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/28/3). In addition, national reports were submitted by Mali, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco, Mozambique, Ghana, Madagascar, Zambia, Benin, Kenya, Egypt (UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.1-13), Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius (UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.15-17).

2. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC.

3. The representatives of Zambia, Angola, Algeria, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Sudan, Gambia and Morocco made statements. The observers for the United States and Interpol made statements and a presentation.

4. The importance of effective international cooperation, including at the regional and subregional levels, was emphasized in addressing the world drug problem. Some speakers noted the need to move from bilateral to multilateral cooperation efforts as most trafficking activities involved more than two countries and suggested strengthening cooperation in the region and beyond.

5. It was noted that the meetings of HONLEA, Africa, provided a forum for enhancing the frameworks for international cooperation, as well as for developing proposals and recommendations for future action. The need for continued cooperation

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between States and UNODC in addressing and countering the world drug problem was emphasized. States in the African region were called upon to organize regional coordination meetings and to establish cooperation networks. UNODC was encouraged to assess in-depth the drug situation in Africa and to strengthen and coordinate its technical assistance to countries in the region.

6. Many speakers reported on recent, unprecedented large seizures of cocaine and heroin, in line with the findings of this year's World Drug Report prepared by UNODC. Some had also made large seizures of cannabis and tramadol, as well as amphetamine type stimulants and NPS.

7. Several speakers referred to the increased threat posed by the abuse and trafficking of tramadol and noted changes to the modi operandi and routes used by traffickers. Some speakers highlighted the enhanced efforts made by their Governments to address this issue. Some speakers recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs consider scheduling tramadol under the International Drug Control Conventions.

8. Several speakers highlighted the threat that cannabis, including, in some countries, cannabis of a higher potency, continued to pose in the African region and highlighted the efforts made by their Governments to address the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis.

9. A presentation was made on the threats posed by fentanyl and its analogues. The meetings was informed that fentanyl was 100 times more potent than morphine and as such posed a high risk of overdose and other negative health effects to drug users. It was noted that contact with very small quantities could cause extreme reactions and as such first responders, such as police officers, prison guards or medical teams would be at risk as well. It was also noted that consumers were often unaware of the exact substances taken as fentanyl would usually be mixed with other substances. This method also hampered analysis and detection of fentanyl. Naloxone was referred to as the substance of choice to counter fentanyl overdose. It was mentioned that UNODC and Interpol recently issued reports on fentanyl for further information.

10. Several speakers referred to the efforts undertaken by their Governments to counter the trafficking of precursors and their diversion for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. Some speakers reported good experiences using the PEN Online (pre-export notification) system developed by INCB.

11. Several speakers reported on taking part in training sessions offered by Interpol and UNODC as well as in joint operations organized by Interpol, AIRCOP, WCO, and UNODC. It was noted that 80 countries were participating in the operations worldwide, among them 17 countries from Africa.

12. Reference was also made to increases in the abuse and trafficking of "captagon" tablets, as well as the threat posed by the abuse of prescription medicines, such as cough medicines, diazepam and others. It was noted that the abuse and trafficking of khat remained a source of concern.

13. It was noted that effective measures to address drug trafficking would need to include following the financial flows, as financial interests were at the basis of all activities. Some speakers reported on measures taken to counter money-laundering in this regard and the need for cooperation with the financial sector due to the expertise required, as well as with money transfer service providers.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Addendum

Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa

1. At its fourth meeting, on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 4 of its agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa". The Meeting had before it a note prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONLAF/28/4) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of HONLEA, Africa.

2. As of 19 July 2018, replies were received from the Governments of Algeria, Mali, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, the Sudan, Eswatini and the United Republic of Tanzania. After that date, completed questionnaires have been received from Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and Zambia.

3. The Secretary made an introductory statement. During the discussion, statements were made by Egypt, Liberia, Namibia, Mauritius, Benin, Chad, Morocco, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, the Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Zambia and Algeria.

4. The Meeting discussed action taken by Governments to implement the recommendations adopted by the Twenty-sixth Meeting and highlighted actions taken in relation to specific recommendations.

5. Regarding effective national and regional strategies to address drug trafficking at sea many countries reported on close cooperation of and information exchange between the security services involved in countering trafficking of drugs by sea. Some countries reported on having taken action on operational cooperation in patrolling coastlines.

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6. Some delegations noted that strong surveillance of smaller boats was needed as they were used to offload drugs from larger boats and transport them to unmarked landing places.

7. One delegation highlighted the challenge of not having dedicated maritime police with a mandate to counter drug trafficking.

8. On the recommendations regarding new psychoactive substances, amphetamine-type stimulants and the diversion of precursors some delegations reported on new control measures and updated laws for NPS.

9. One delegation noted that ephedrine was imported by criminals and diverted to local methamphetamine labs. A rate of diversion from legally imported sources of over 50 per cent was noted in this regard. The adverse health consequences and environmental hazards associated with the production of methamphetamine was also highlighted.

10. Reference was made to private companies importing larger quantities of precursor chemicals than required with the aim of diversion. In this regard a legal review was recommended in case law enforcement would not have sufficient grounds for intervention in such cases. In this connection the problem of transit shipments was mentioned.

11. Some delegations reported on strict import/export licensing in compliance with the provisions stipulated by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

12. One delegation reported that the country, in pursuit of better control of often diverted substances, would now require prescriptions for medication containing codeine and tramadol which were now controlled by special permits.

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Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (a): Recent trends in drug trafficking in Africa and links to organized crime

1. The working group held one meeting on 18 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) There are clear links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, including: trafficking in firearms, wildlife and timber; human trafficking and migrant smuggling, as well as illegal mining. It was noted that drug trafficking was also a source of financing of terrorism, in some cases;

(b) It was noted that money-laundering was a significant enabling activity that went hand in hand with drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime;

(c) It was also noted that there is a constant evolution and adaptation in methodologies of drug trafficking networks in order to evade law enforcement responses;

(d) Drug trafficking routes are also being used for trafficking of other forms of trafficking.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) There is a lack of reliable research and analysis to establish an in-depth understanding of the criminal environment and the linkages between drug trafficking and other types of organized crime;

(b) There is limited awareness of linkages between drug trafficking and other related organized crime types and this is aggravated by a lack of capacity of law enforcement agencies to develop effective law enforcement responses to this fluid criminal environment;

(c) More attention should be given to better identification of illicit financial flows generated by drug trafficking and other organized criminal groups;

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(d) Sharing of knowledge between law enforcement and other relevant agencies on evolving links and modi operandi used by drug and organized crime groups is of utmost importance;

(e) There is a need to broaden the capacity of drug control agencies to develop an enhanced ability to identify other forms of organized crime activities and to optimize the use of financial intelligence.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to strengthen efforts in undertaking comprehensive research and analysis to ensure drug trafficking and its links to all forms of organized crime impacting the region are better understood;

(b) Governments are encouraged to develop the capacities of their relevant law enforcement agencies to investigate and disrupt drug trafficking groups linked to other forms of organized crime;

(c) Governments are urged to adapt their training programmes to counter drug and organized criminal groups by including, inter alia, specific programmes related to the investigating and disrupting of illicit financial flows, tracing, freezing and confiscating proceeds of crime and how to enhance identification of other related forms of organized crime;

(d) It is recommended that Governments make best use of existing regional and international mechanisms to enhance law enforcement coordination and cooperation as well as knowledge of the criminal environment, and target the links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (b): Best practices in prison reform and alternatives to conviction or punishment

1. The working group held one meeting on 19 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Prison reform efforts are undertaken in several countries of the region affecting pretrial, trial and post-trial stages. The reforms include special measures for children and minors, drug users and those found in possession of small quantities of drugs;

(b) Alternatives to imprisonment such as electronic surveillance, parole, fines, use of bail, suspended conviction as well as community service are implemented or considered through legal and policy reforms, while custody is often considered a last resort. Alternatives to imprisonment are a measure to reduce congestion in prison settings;

(c) Legal reform and drug sentencing guidelines are implemented or proposed across the African continent. These measures are undertaken to ensure proportionality of sentencing, matching the gravity of the offences, and are guided by international standards and instruments;

(d) Rehabilitation measures for offenders have received renewed attention in the region and include skills development, education and health services with a focus on drug treatment and HIV services, legal aid, post-release social reintegration and the rehabilitation of minors in conflict with the law.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) While progress has been made on prison reform including legal and policy changes, there is a need to approve and operationalize these measures and ensure monitoring of their implementation and effectiveness;

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(b) Several measures on alternatives to imprisonment are underway, but capacity-building and infrastructure development are needed to operationalize them;

(c) Skills development programmes, health and legal aid services are increasingly made available in prisons but need to be further developed in the region.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Countries of the region are encouraged to expand practical measures for alternatives to imprisonment including for drug users and those found in possession of small quantities of drugs;

(b) Governments should consider multisectoral programmes for drug offenders, including specialized programmes for vulnerable groups such as women offenders, drug users, minors and the elderly. These programmes should address skills development, education, health services with a particular focus on drug treatment and HIV services, legal aid and post-release social reintegration measures;

(c) Governments are encouraged to develop or strengthen measures for oversight and monitoring of prison settings and other detention facilities in order to ensure compliance with international standards and human rights instruments.

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Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (d): Awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings

1. The working group held one meeting on 19 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Many countries mentioned the adoption and implementation of national drug master plans, policies and strategies that guide the balanced approach to drug control in their respective countries and that are inclusive of prevention and treatment, as well as other health-related issues;

(b) Several countries underlined the multi-sectoral implementation of sensitization and public awareness-raising campaigns, including by using the Internet, social media and other initiatives. Targeted information, education and communication materials were developed and disseminated through various channels, including youth and drug-free clubs;

(c) Drug prevention interventions through school curricula integration were emphasised as a sustainable and integrated manner to scale-up school-based drug prevention programmes.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) Programmatic research and prevalence surveys have been undertaken in the region, however there is still paucity in data on programme effectiveness and epidemiological trends in the region;

(b) While progress was made in the implementation of prevention initiatives and programmes, there is a need to scale-up evidence-based drug prevention programmes in all settings and at all stages of development, from infancy to early adulthood, mindful of the needs of children and youth at risk or from marginalised communities;

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(c) While the focus of the working group was addressing awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings, greater attention to family skills programmes was identified as a priority intervention requiring greater investment;

(d) An integrated partnership approach to planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of programmes that are inclusive of all relevant sectors (e.g. education, health, social welfare, youth, labour, law enforcement, etc.), at all levels (e.g. national, sub-national and local) and engaging a range of implementers and stakeholders (e.g. government agencies, non-governmental organizations, community and religious leaders, universities, research institutions and the private sector) is key to effective prevention programmes.

3. The working group adopted the following recommendations with regard to activities and programmes on awareness-raising on drug-related issues in educational settings:

(a) Understanding that programmes need to address all development stages and be conducted in multiple settings to have an impact on preventing drug use and drug use disorders, Governments are encouraged to develop and implement effective drug prevention systems that include supportive legal and policy frameworks, scientific evidence and research, coordination mechanisms of multiple sectors and levels, capacity-building of policymakers and practitioners and allocation of adequate resources to sustain the system on the long term;

(b) Acknowledging that the objective of drug prevention is to help young people to avoid or delay initiation into the use of drugs and to avoid developing disorders, Governments are encouraged to scale-up availability, coverage and quality of scientific evidence-based prevention activities and programmes in all relevant settings, including schools, in line with the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly;

(c) Governments are encouraged to enhance the gathering of gender and age-disaggregated drug use data and evidence of the impact of drug use prevention programmes to ensure the drug prevention programmes implemented are effective and fit for purpose.

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Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (c): Practical measures to operationalize regional cooperation in drug law enforcement

1. The working group held one meeting on 20 September 2018. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Concrete examples of bilateral cooperation between countries across the Continent exist, but this cooperation has not yet been translated into multilateral cooperative arrangements;

(b) Knowledge and use of existing information exchange platforms and their functionalities are lacking;

(c) There are a number of ongoing programmes supported by various international organizations focused on regional cooperation between drug law enforcement agencies and other related authorities that are not coordinated;

(d) There is a lack of emphasis on illicit financial flows and proceeds of crimes in existing drug investigations;

(e) Differences in legal frameworks and languages are barriers to effective cooperation between countries.

2. The working group drew up the following conclusions:

(a) The success of joint operations between countries demonstrates a real opportunity to counter drug criminal networks across the continent and beyond;

(b) There is a need to enhance awareness and utilization of existing information-sharing and cooperation platforms;

(c) Criminal investigation capacity with regard to post seizure investigations, financial investigations and the use of special investigative techniques is lacking in some countries.

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3. The working group adopted the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to ensure enhanced awareness and to make best use of existing intelligence and cooperation platforms such as AFRIPOL, INTERPOL, World Customs Organisation, Asset Recovery Interagency Networks (ARIN), judicial cooperation networks and others;

(b) Drug law enforcement and other relevant agencies should explore opportunities to undertake multilateral intelligence-led investigations targeting regional and interregional drug trafficking networks;

(c) Governments are urged to undertake regular training needs-assessments of their drug law enforcement agencies and to develop capacity-building programmes to address current gaps in capability to tackle drug trafficking impacting the continent.

V.18-06239